

## CLASSROOM OBSERVATION IN TEACHING PRACTICE

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### ABSTRACT

Modern pedagogy provides for close interaction between the teacher and students in all levels of education, which is achieved through the widespread introduction of interactive technologies in the learning process. Observation plays a central role in practice teaching, both observation of your teaching by your cooperating teacher and supervisor, as well as your own observations of your cooperating teacher class.

**Keywords:** observation, teaching practice, classroom observation, teaching process, the nature of classroom observation

### INTRODUCTION

The purpose and nature of observation, however, differs according to who participates in the observation process. For example, in observing your cooperating teacher's class your focus will be on *how* the teacher teaches, on such things as how the teacher creates a positive atmosphere for learning, on the strategies and procedures used by the teacher in setting up activities, on the way the teacher gives instructions and explanation, and how he or she gives feedback to learners. Other school staff may also wish to observe one of your classes from time to time, such as the principal, the vice principal, or a senior teacher, so you need to prepare well for every lesson in the event that someone asks to observe your teaching. You may also have opportunity to observe other teachers in your host school and to review video recordings of your own teaching and that of student teachers in your teaching practice seminars.

Teaching is a complex and dynamic activity, and during a lesson many things occur" simultaneously, so it is not possible to observe all of them. Thirty students in a class may be responding to the lesson in many different ways. Some may be finding the lesson stimulating and may have a clear sense of what the purposes of activities are and how they are supposed to carry them out.

At the same time, the presence of an observer in the classroom sometimes influences the nature of the lesson, making the lesson untypical of the teacher's, usual style of teaching. As a student teacher you may "overprepare" for a visit by your supervisor of cooperating teacher in order to show yourself at your best. You may also feel tense knowing that the observer is not only there to assist you in developing your teaching skills, but also to evaluate how well you are doing.

And even if aspects of classroom behavior are observable such as the amount of talking students engage in when completing an activity you may not be able to tell whether this is an indication of confusion or of interest. For all these reasons information you or your cooperating teacher gain during an observation always needs to be clarified through conversation and discussion in order to understand the meaning of what you observed.

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